

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Ceramic colorants in the form of suspensions of particles of colorant have nanometric dimensions in which the solvent of the suspension is a high-boiling alcohol.

2. (original) The ceramic colorants according to Claim 1, in which the particles have dimensions of between 5 nm and 600 nm.

3. (currently amended) The colorants according to Claims 1 ~~and 2~~, in which the high-boiling alcohol is chosen in the group consisting of diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol or polyethylene glycol.

4. (currently amended) The colorants according to Claims 1 ~~to 3~~, in which the nanometric particles are chosen in the group consisting of:

$M^II M^III_2 O_4$, where M^II is chosen in the group consisting of Fe^{II} , Zn, Co, Ni, Mn, and M^III is chosen in the group consisting of Fe^{III} , Al, Cr, Mn,

$CoAl_2O_4$, $Ti(Sb,Cr)O_2$, $(Zr,Pr)SiO_4$, $(Zr,V)SiO_4$, $(AlCr)_2O_3$, $(Al,Cr)MO_3$ (where $M = Y, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb$), $CaSn_{1-x}Cr_xSiO_5$, $Ti(Sb,Ni)O_2$, $(Zr,V)O_2$, $(Sn,V)O_2$, $Sn_{1-x}Cr_xO_{3-x/2}$ (where x is comprised between 0.01 and 0.1), Au^0 , Ag^0 , Cu^0 .

5. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ceramic colorants according to Claims 1 ~~to 4~~, in which:

- to a known volume of alcohol there are added the salts of the desired metals, and the solution is then heated under stirring up to complete solubilization of the salts.

- water is added in appropriate amounts for facilitating hydrolysis of the salts, and the solution is heated up to a temperature higher than 150°C.

- once the reaction is completed, the suspension that has formed is left to cool to room temperature,

- the suspension thus obtained is subjected to dialysis or ultrafiltration to eliminate the salts and/or to replace the solvent;

- possibly the suspension is centrifuged, and the precipitate is collected and dried.

6. (currently amended) The process for the preparation of ceramic colorants according to

Claims 1 to 4, in which:

there are rapidly added the reagents (solutions of salts of metals) to a polar solvent previously brought to the desired temperature of hydrolysis, and then the suspension is brought to room temperature, and the reaction environment is dehydrated with dehydrating agents, then proceeding as specified in Claim 5.

7. (currently amended) The process for the preparation of ceramic colorants according to Claims 1 to 4, in which :

- the salts are dissolved in the high-boiling alcohol at an adequate temperature;
- an unmixable solvent is added to the high-boiling alcohol to form an emulsion of micelles of nanometric dimensions
- the necessary amount of water is added to the suspension under stirring, allowing it to react at a temperature higher than 120°C;
- it is then left to cool to room temperature, then proceeding as specified in Claim 5.

8. (currently amended) Colorants according to claims 1 and 2 in the form of powders, obtainable by the processes according to claims 5 – 7.

9. (currently amended) Process for coloring Use of the colorants according to Claims 1 to 4 for colouring ceramic materials, ceramic bodies, enamels wherein a colorant according to Claim 1 is used.

10. (currently amended) Process Use of the colorants according to Claims 1 to 4 for colouring fabrics made of fibre or in a bolt wherein a colorant according to claim 1 is used.

11. (currently amended) Colorants according to Claim 1 for use in the catalyst and pharmaceutical field. Use of the colorants according to claim 1 — 4 in the catalyst and pharmaceutical field.